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developed until at last they almost form a continuous mass, the parenchyma which previously separated them is thereby compressed into some small insulated patches, that appear scattered through the completely formed wood in little narrow vertical bands, which, in regard to their origin, may rightly be termed vertical medullary rays. On the outside of these cords are found in the wood very frequently *spiroidæ* still unaltered, forming the commencements of the outer vascular bundles. I have pursued the entire development of this peculiar structure in two species of *Pisonia*, in *Amaranthus viridis*, *Beta Cicla, Atriplex hortensis, Chenopodium Quinoa*, &c. Many other plants of the families mentioned, such as the *Piperaceæ*, which I could only examine under certain circumstances, prove, by their structure, that this peculiarity is quite general in those families.

A curious form of wood probably belongs here, (and perhaps the whole family of the *Crassulaceæ*), but I had no opportunity of following up the history of their development\*. In the old stem of an undetermined *Echeveria* I found, for instance, an entire uniform mass of wood, formed of prosenchymatous cells without vessels, and scattered therein small vertical cords of a very delicate-walled parenchyma, in the midst of which ran spiral vessels, most of which might still be unrolled.

3. A third point of importance, arising from the essential differences of stems, is the relation of the axis to the parts given off from its periphery, the leaves and buds. Hereto belong a multiplicity of phenomena.

<sup>\*</sup> I beg here expressly to observe that the earlier stages were not at my disposal, and protest solemnly against the reproach of having overlooked anything, if the development should give any other result. I should not notice this if Meyen (in his Annual Report for 1838, p. 44) had not so groundlessly charged me with error, though I had explicitly declared that I had been unable to examine the earlier stages, and where, moreover, the history of the development shows that my supposition on the signification of the questionable formation was correct.

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appearance), but a peculiar arrangement of the vascular system which may always be demonstrated by anatomy. For there is formed from two or more vascular bundles by simple superposition on one another, or by anastomotic ramifications, a loop, *ansa*, and only from this *plexus* do the peripherical organs receive their vascular bundles. From this relation, then, in connexion with the formation of the horizontal medullary rays, results infinite variety in the woody body. This *ansa* is, at the same time, especially destined to place the parenchyma of the lateral organs in connexion with the pith (or, rather, the living parenchyma) of the axis. The size of the noose is therefore essentially dependent on the thickness of the base of the leaves or lateral buds, (or, rather, the reverse).

In the Monocotyledons this formation of true nodes is probably far more rare, if indeed it occurs at all; for I am yet in doubt whether a real anastomosis of the vascular system takes place in the so-called nodes of the grasses, for the purpose of giving off bundles to the lateral parts. Thus much at least is certain, that in Monocotyledons the anastomosis of the vascular system decidedly takes place more rarely than in Dicotyledons. If it could be ascertained that the above characteristic formation of nodes nowhere occurred amongst the Monocotyledons, this would certainly afford a primary and general distinction between them.

In Acotyledons the decided dicotyledonous formation again occurs; and many unnecessary words would have been spared on the pretended difference in the stems of Ferns if the formation from which it is said to deviate (viz. the dicotyledonous stem) had been studied, not in a limited consideration of the Oak or the Lime, but in the various types of the different families. I believe it would not be very difficult for me to demonstrate all the modifications of the woody tissue of ferns, which do not depend on the closing up of the vascular bundles, but only on number, situation and mutual combination, as occurring in all essential points in the *Euphorbiaceæ* or the *Cacteæ*.

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C. But here the most important circumstance is whether the interfoliar parts are longitudinally developed or not. In the first case all the new parts originating on the surface (whether it be new vascular bundles or the continued development of old ones) serve naturally to add to the thickness of the whole stem, without its length being in any way increased by these new parts. It is otherwise when the interfoliar parts remain undeveloped. Here, as far as I have hitherto been able to observe, this circumstance constantly occurs, that from the germinating plant, or the node in the act of formation, the impulse of growth, being unable to extend lengthwise, expands every following internode more and more in breadth until a certain period, so that every subsequent one projects somewhat beyond the earlier one, and thus converts the original lateral surface into an under surface. As the best example, I may here mention the development of bulbs, and of the Melocacti. This augmentation of the internodes continues only to a certain period, namely, till the plant has in this manner formed for itself a sufficiently broad basis. From this time the new internode no longer expands itself beyond the old; and a stem gradually increasing in height, but usually not increasing any further in thickness, originates through the continued deposition of the interfoliar parts, resembling hollow cones, on one another. A repetition of the gradual expansion of the internodes just described occurs as an exception in the tumid forms of the palm stems. For the study of this form of stem in the Monocotyledons, I would recommend to those who have not palms at hand the Allium strictum and senescens, &c, as they are in reality palm stems in miniature.

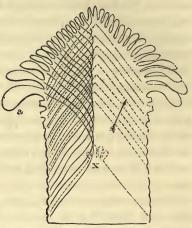
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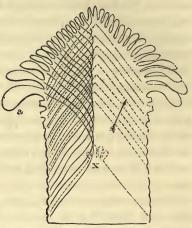
is easily made evident by a diagram of the construction of such a stem, as in the annexed Figure, where the dotted lines represent the limits of the mass (the hollow cone) belonging to each interfolial part, and the arrow denotes the direction which does not exactly correspond to the direction from within outwards in a developed stem, but combines this and the other direc-



tion from above downwards, each cone being at the same time a newly deposited part directed outwardly and a new internode added superiorly. Now every leaf (a) has originally its position on the apex (x) of the hollow cone, which originated contemporaneously with it, and in which those vascular bundles belonging to the leaves naturally proceed obliquely from the periphery inwards and upwards to the leaf, and consequently to the axis of the stem (x). From this position the leaf is now in consequence of the continued formation gradually pushed towards the periphery, which course its vascular bundles must follow, as they perforate all the succeeding cones just as a branch of one of our forest trees breaks through the subsequent annual zones; whence it results that the second portion of the arc is formed from within obliquely outwards and upwards. Now whether the arc is longer or shorter, or what is the same thing, more or less curved, depends principally on the shape of the recently superposed cone, i. e. on the terminal shoot. The more acute the terminal bud the longer the curve, as in most of the Palms; and the flatter it is the shorter and more curved is the arc, as in most Monocotyledonous Rhizomes.

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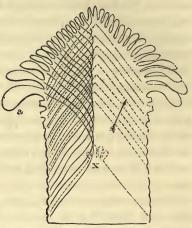
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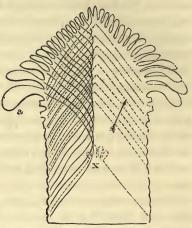
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curved course of the vascular bundles as a primary distinction between the Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons, for this is dependent on two other relations, that of the closed vascular bundles and the undeveloped internodes; consequently it would on the one hand be present in the Dicotyledons if they had closed vascular bundles, and on the other would not belong generally to the monocotyledonous stem, but only to that with undeveloped internodes.

D. Now from a combination of the circumstances related under A. and C. there originates in the *simple* closed circle of vascular bundles and proportionally large leaf-bases, for the closed vascular bundles, the form of the Fern-stem, and for the unclosed that of the Cactean stem: the latter repeats nearly all the relations of the Fern-stem, only always above the earth.

4. In the dicotyledonous structure of stems many diversities still result from the hypertrophy of the pith, the bark, or both, as for instance in the *Euphorbiæ*, *Cacteæ*, many tubers, *e. g. Solanum tuberosum*, and particularly also the *Cycadeæ*, the structure of whose stem has only the most superficial resemblance to that of the Palms, and is certainly more nearly allied to that of the Fern stems, but differs essentially from them by the unlimited vascular bundles, and approaches far more to the *Cacteæ*.

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The study of the organization of stems is still a boundless field for careful research; so far as I know no one has yet given a true explanation of that frequent formation in the family of the *Sapindaceæ*, where in one stem we meet with several centra for the formation of wood, only one of which occupies the axis of the stem. Likewise very little that is satisfactory is known of the peculiar structure of the stem of the *Phytocrene* (Wall.), or of the analogous forms frequently occurring in the family of the *Bignoniaceæ*,—forms which cannot be described by words, for which reason I cursorily refer to Lindley, 'Introduction to Botany,' p. 79, fig. 36, where a similar structure, stated to be from a *Passiflora*, is represented.

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To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

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